

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 11 is amended herein. All pending claims and their present status are produced below.

- 1 1. (Original) A method for managing data traffic through a network, the data traffic
2 comprised of a plurality of microflows, the method comprising:
3 determining a capacity of a buffer containing a microflow based on a characteristic;
4 assigning an acceptable threshold value for the capacity of the buffer over a
5 predetermined period of time;
6 delegating a portion of available bandwidth in the network to the microflow; and
7 using the buffer for damping jitter associated with the microflow.
- 1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising assigning a data rate value for
2 the microflow to travel through the network.
- 1 3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the data rate value and the characteristic
2 corresponds with guaranteed rate traffic.
- 1 4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the data rate value and the characteristic
2 corresponds with maximum rate traffic.
- 1 5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the data rate value and the characteristic
2 corresponds with available rate traffic.
- 1 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the characteristic is a traffic
2 characteristic.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein delegating the portion of available
2 bandwidth further comprises dynamically setting a weighting factor to partition a
3 bandwidth allocation for the microflow.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising setting a packet discard time
2 limit.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the characteristic includes a microflow
2 burst.

1 10. (Original) A system for managing data traffic through a network, the data traffic
2 comprised of a plurality of microflows, the system comprising:
3 a means for determining a capacity of a buffer containing a microflow based on a
4 characteristic;
5 a means for assigning an acceptable threshold value for the capacity of the buffer over
6 a predetermined period of time;
7 a means for delegating a portion of available bandwidth in the network to the
8 microflow; and
9 a means for using the buffer for damping jitter associated with the microflow.

1 11. (Currently amended) The system of claim 10, further comprising a ~~means for~~ means
2 for assigning a data rate value for the microflow to travel through the network.

1 12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the data rate value and the characteristic
2 corresponds with guaranteed rate traffic.

1 13. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the data rate value and the characteristic
2 corresponds with maximum rate traffic.

1 14. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the data rate value and the characteristic
2 corresponds with available rate traffic.

1 15. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the characteristic is a traffic
2 characteristic.

1 16. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the means for delegating the portion of
2 available bandwidth further comprises a means for dynamically setting a weighting
3 factor to partition a bandwidth allocation for the microflow.

1 17. (Original) The system of claim 10, further comprising a means for setting a packet
2 discard time limit.

1 18. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the characteristic includes a microflow
2 burst.

1 19. (Original) In a network management system for controlling data traffic through a
2 network, the data traffic comprised of a plurality of microflows, a microflow
3 classification structure to determine data traffic type comprising:
4 a packet discard time substructure configured to provide a time value to ensure buffer
5 capacity for a microflow;
6 a weighting factor substructure configured to partition available bandwidth among the
7 plurality of microflows to be transmitted through the network; and

8 a delay variation substructure configured to provide a buffer value to dampen jitter in
9 a transmission of the microflow.

1 20. (Original) The microflow classification structure of claim 19, wherein the packet
2 discard time substructure is configured to address a burst size of a microflow.

1 21. (Original) The microflow classification structure of claim 19, wherein the packet
2 discard time substructure, the weighting factor substructure, and the delay variation
3 substructure are quality of service descriptors.

1 22. (Original) The microflow classification structure of claim 19, wherein at least of the
2 wherein the packet discard time substructure, the microflow timeout period
3 substructure, the weighting factor substructure, and the delay variation substructure is
4 used to determine a behavior of a microflow.

1 23. (Original) The microflow classification structure of claim 21, wherein a behavior of
2 the microflow can be characterized as one from a group comprising an available rate
3 traffic, a maximum rate traffic, and a guaranteed rate traffic.

1 24. (Original) The microflow classification structure of claim 19, wherein the packet
2 discard time substructure comprises a value of less than 500 milliseconds.

1 25. (Original) The microflow classification structure of claim 19, wherein the weighting
2 factor substructure comprises a value of zero.

1 26. (Original) The microflow classification structure of claim 19, wherein the weighting
2 factor substructure comprises a value comprised of a percentage of available
3 bandwidth in the network.

1 27. (Original) The microflow classification structure of claim 19, wherein the buffer
2 value for the delay variation substructure is a time value less than 200 milliseconds.

1 28. (Original) The microflow classification structure of claim 19, further comprising a
2 microflow timeout period substructure configured to provide a predetermined value
3 for a duration to detect a microflow termination;

1 29. (Original) The microflow classification structure of claim 28, wherein the
2 predetermined value for the microflow timeout period substructure comprises is less
3 than 32 seconds.